

Appl. No. 09/885,707
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 19 April 2006

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Claims 1-11 are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label number(s), and/or to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. The claims are not narrowed in scope except where amended for this purpose. No new matter is added.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings. However, applicants respectfully decline to add the headings, as they are not required.

The Office action objects to the specification for lacking headings. Applicant(s) respectfully traverse(s) this objection. Subject headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC 111(a), but per 37 CFR 1.51(d) are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. Furthermore, the Office has stated that it will not require conformance with the format set forth in 37 CFR 1.77. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77"). Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection to the specification is also respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 11 are allowed.

The Office action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 USC § 101. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 9 is amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner to be statutory subject matter, by adding a claimed limitation to a practical application. Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is therefore also statutory. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 and 10 is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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